

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Polish-Czech Border Conditions

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1. Prior to September 1954, no wire obstacles were observed in the Polish border area extending from the southern sector of Grunwald (P 51/H 12) as far as the outskirts of Stuhlseiffen (P 51/H 21). Wooden watchtowers as used for permanent observation posts were observed on the Polish side of the border. A plowed strip which lay between the road and the Erlitz Rivulet was maintained by Polish farmers who settled in this area and whose work was supervised by WOP (border guard) soldiers. The Polish sections of the two still-existing brick bridges over the Erlitz Ribulet were closed with barbed wire. These bridges were located in Kaiserswalde (P 51/H 12) and Langenbrueck (P 51/H 22). Border guarding was effected by WOP double patrols and additional mounted WOP patrols which were stationed at irregular intervals. Patrols moving on foot were only occasionally equipped with dogs. No obstacles or patrol activities of border guard troops were observed on the Czech side of the border. It was known that two Czech customs officers were stationed at the Czech town of Kunstat (P 50/N 33). A WOP subpost of 30 to 40 soldiers was located in the former German customs house in Kaiserswalde. Similar subposts were known to be in Grunwald and Stuhlseiffen. Prior to September 1954, major WOP posts were located in "abelschwerdt (P 51/H 32) and Bad Reinerz (P 51/H 13). Prior to September 1954, the border guard service in the subject border sector was marked with considerable negligence. The WOP soldiers who were stationed in this area came from **Central Poland**.¹
2. Prior to March 1954, the only barracks installation in the northwestern sector of Ratibor (P 51/Y 05), on the west side of ul. Stalina (formerly Flur Strasse) and the south side of former Kasernen Strasse, quartered Polish border guard troops of battalion size. Numerous barracks were newly erected in the area of the installation which had suffered war damage. Two permanent brick buildings, one of which had been built by the Germans, were also observed at the site. An apartment house which was inhabited by WOP officers and their dependents was located south of and outside the area of the installation. Components of the unit were alternately stationed as border guards along the Polish-Czech border. The headquarters of the WOP in the station was allegedly also located in the area of the installation. The training ground of the border guards was located near the target ranges in the loop of the Oder River in the northern sector of the city. Another site which was located in the same area and was called the O3 athletic field by the population, was used for training purposes. Prior to March 1954, no army troops were stationed

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at Ratibor. It was known that large uniform-tailoring shops were located in the large prison south of ul. 1 Maja (formerly Eichendorff Strasse). Completed uniforms were constantly trucked away from this installation.²

1. Comment. The present information confirms the known situation in the Polish-Czech border area inclusive of the fact that no border guard troops are stationed on the Czech side of the border. 25X1

2. Comment. It is known that only a battalion of the 4th WOP Brigade in Wleiwitz is stationed at Ratibor. 25X1

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